Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Gregory A. Sebald (Reg. No. 33,280), at (612) 332.5300.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C. P.O. Box 2903 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903 (612) 332-5300

Dated: January 8, 2002

GASebald/nel

By_

iregory A. Sebalo

Reg. No. 33,280

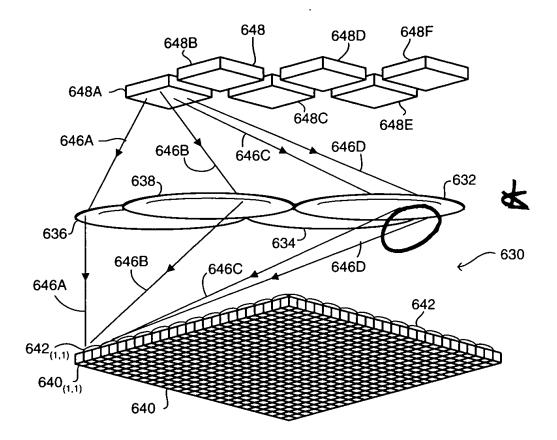


FIG. 13

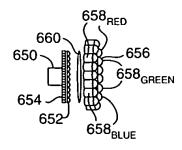


FIG. 14A

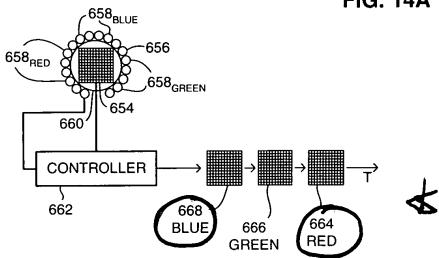


FIG. 14B

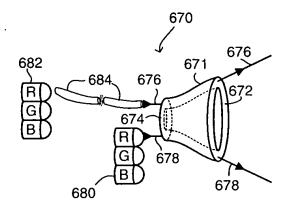


FIG. 15

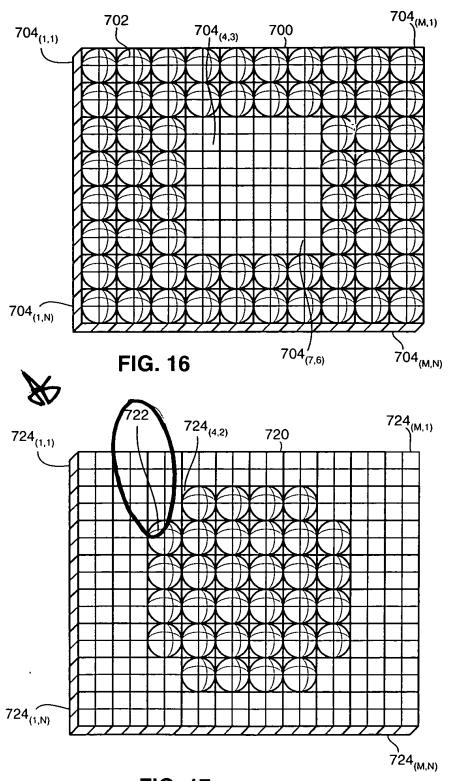


FIG. 17

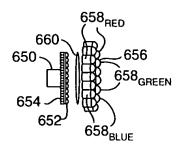


FIG. 14A

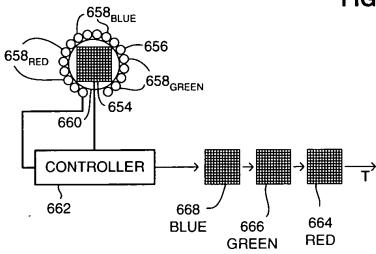


FIG. 14B

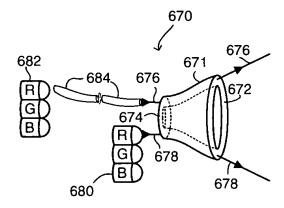


FIG. 15